

**From:** James Nicholas Rhodes  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/19/01 12:57pm  
**Subject:** hello

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a Canadian who is marrying my American fiancée soon, so since I am moving to the United States once approved by INS, I hope that my input is put into this discussion.

I am studying to be a Computer Analyst/Programmer at Red River College in Winnipeg, Canada. I have used Windows every day since the first iteration of it and even DOS before that. I also am a Macintosh user, and I am running Mac OS X at home on my iBook from Apple.

Since I am well versed with both Windows and the Mac, I think I can provide some enlightenment here. Being a Macintosh user, I am so tired of Microsoft bullying Mac users into accepting their "standard" for the internet, Internet Explorer. Just because Microsoft has lots of money, they think they can enforce any "standard" they want on the internet.

What Microsoft needs is not a slap on the wrist, as I will put what this deal appears to render Microsoft. The US DOJ cannot allow Microsoft to continue its anti-competitive behavior. A prime example is in the new OS, Windows XP. Microsoft has made it very difficult for someone to record a music CD into the MP3 format, forcing end-users to use their their own proprietary format. This is ridiculous, since I own the CDs I make MP3s from, I have a LEGAL right to do so. Why is Microsoft being allowed to do this? This is a prime example of Microsoft trying to shove their "standard" on the rest of the computing world.

Another example is the blocking of QuickTime 5 use on Windows PCs by Microsoft. They deliberately made it difficult for Apple to allow Windows users to use QuickTime on the Windows platform. Thank God that Apple has some really genius-level software engineers, because Apple was able to provide an updated version to combat Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior.

A further example is the Java programming language from Sun... I just finished a course in Java programming and it is the most wonderful programming language to use. But Microsoft continually does whatever it can to kill Sun's Java, because it is just too good for Microsoft's own liking. It is a threat to their stability as a software producer because an application properly coded with Java can run on any platform, since it is platform agnostic. All of the Java programs I wrote in my course can be run on my iBook running Mac OS X which is a sheer delight. No code changes have to be made...

I only use Windows at college now, because I am forced to. I chose to use a Mac a long time ago, and with the new OS, Mac OS X, it is more stable and more user-friendly than Windows XP will ever hope to achieve. Mac OS X does not have all of the security flaws that Windows (whatever version one chooses) has, and this is one reason why I dislike Windows - the product is just so unstable at best.

The DOJ has to listen to people who use both platforms, because it is important to get their input on this case. The final judgment will have many ramifications in the future, so please choose wisely. Letting a company this big get away with anything it feels like doing is dangerous to the consumer like myself, but I also say it is dangerous to the stability of a government in the long run. I would hate to see the US government become a "puppet" of Microsoft's whims, because I care about the US very much since I am marrying my American sweetheart. I was very glad to see the US Army change critical systems from Windows NT to the Mac platform because of security concerns. I routinely even get people trying to hack into my system, but with my trusty built in firewall into Mac OS X I wish them all the luck in the world. :)

President Bush's office even sent me an Official Presidential portrait with a letter once they were available, because they were impressed with my letter about why I want to become an American. I even decided I am going to be a Republican when I can... :)

Regards,

James Rhodes

p.s. God bless America...